

REMARKS

Claims 22 through 35 are pending in the application and stand rejected under §103(a) as obvious over Raschbichler '059 in further view of Raschbichler '329. The Examiner acknowledges that Raschbichler '059 does not show contours and counter-contours at the opposite respective ends of the stator packets that facilitate joining of the adjacent stator packets, and cites Raschbichler '329 as disclosing a stator packet having a recess 20 at one end that mates with a tooth 21 at the opposite end of an adjacent stator packet. The Examiner concludes that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the teachings of Raschbichler '329 with the stator packet configuration of Raschbichler '059 to arrive at the present claims. Applicant respectfully submits that, even if the suggested combination were made, the resulting configuration is still not in accordance with the present claims.

Independent claim 22 of the present application calls for the front and back ends of the stator packets to have complimentary respective contour and counter-contour cross-sectional profiles such that the contours of the front end align with and engage in the counter-contours of the back end of an adjacent stator packet. Claim 22 expressly calls for the contour and counter-contour configuration to overlap in the longitudinal and transverse directions so that a vertically and horizontally acting cogging is established between the adjacent front and back ends. This configuration is not achieved by the tooth 21 and recess 20 configuration in the ends of the Raschbichler '329 device.

As clearly seen in the perspective view of Fig. 1 and the side view of Fig. 4 of Raschbichler '329, the transversely extending tooth 21 engages in a correspondingly shaped transverse groove or recess 20 in an adjacent component. However, this

configuration results in a cogging only in the vertical direction, and not in the transverse direction as called for in claim 22. Adjacent components 9 are not prevented from sliding apart in the transverse direction. Thus, even with the proposed modification, an element of the independent claim is completely missing.

Variations of a contour and counter-contour cross-sectional profiles are described in the present specification for achieving the vertical and horizontal acting cogging. For example, such a configuration is set forth in dependent claim 25 that calls for the contour and counter-contour profiles to have corresponding recesses and elevations with flanks aligned in a crossing manner in the cross-sectional plane of the stator packets so as to define the vertically and horizontally acting cogging. This unique configuration set forth in dependent claim 25 is completely missing from any combination of the cited references. Similarly, claim 26 calls for the configuration of claim 25 to be arranged in a checker-board configuration. Again, such a configuration is completely absent from the cited references.

The Examiner is also respectfully requested to independently consider the remaining dependent claims. Various features of these dependent claims are completely missing from any combination of the cited references. For example, claim 27 calls for the contour and counter-contour profiles to have corresponding flanks that define a locking engagement between the stator packets in the longitudinal direction. The tooth 21 and recess 20 configuration in the component of Raschbichler '329 does not form a longitudinally locking engagement.

Dependent claim 29 calls for the contour and counter-contour profiles of the adjacent stator packets to engage against each other when the stator packets are

rotated along a vertical axis, a transverse axis, and a longitudinal axis. The tooth 21 and recess 20 profile of mating components in the Raschbichler '329 reference cannot satisfy this limitation. As clearly seen in the perspective view of Fig. 1, there is no structure in the recess 20 that will engage with the corresponding tooth 21 upon rotation of the packet 9 along a vertical axis.

Similarly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to independently consider dependent claim 30 that calls for a material gap between adjacent stator packets within a single stator section to have a width that is different than the width between adjacent stator packets of different stator sections. There is no teaching, suggestion, or other motivation of such a feature in either of Raschbichler '329 or Raschbichler '059.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 22 patentably distinguishes over the cited combination of references. Claims 23 through 33 are allowable for at least the reasons claim 22 is allowable. In addition, applicant respectfully submits that the independent claims present further patentably distinguishing features, as discussed above.

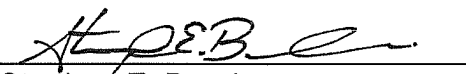
Independent claim 34 is drawn to a carrier for a railborne vehicle, with the carrier having the stator carrier and stator packet configuration as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Similarly, independent claim 35 is drawn to the individual stator packets having the configuration as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Thus, claims 34 and 35 are allowable for essentially the reasons set forth above in the discussion of claim 1.

With the present Amendment, applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable

action thereon is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at his convenience should he have any questions regarding this matter or require any additional information. Please charge any additional fees required by this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 04-1403.

Respectfully submitted,

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